Protection of Pahari Maynah

1079. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that talking Bird Pahari Maynah, a rare species on the verge of extinction in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, as reported in India Today dated 24th June, 2002;

(b) what steps Government propose to take against poachers of such birds; and

(c) the details of steps Government propose to take for preservation, against poaching and for growth of such birds?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No scientific data regarding status of Pahari Maynah in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh is available. However, State Government has reported a decline in the number of this species in Chhattisgarh State.

(b) and (c) Hunting of all wild animals is banned under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, State Government have been requsted from time to time to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Central funds for Forest Protection

1080. SHRI J. CHATHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide funds to State Governments for forest protection activities, for procurement of wireless sets and other equipments; and

(b) if so, the amount provided to State Governments during the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir, The Government has provided central assistance to

the State Governments for fores protection including procurement of wireless sets and othe equipments under the 'Forest Fire Contro and Managment' Scheme during 1998-1999. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and under the scheme 'Bridging of Infrastructure Gap in the Forestry Sector in the North Eastern States and Sikkim' to the States of Assam and Tripura during 2000-2001.

(b) A total amount of around Rs. 397.00 lakhs was provided to the State Governments during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for procurement of wireless sets and other equipments.

Mangrove Plantation to check Environment Damage

1081. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether central assistance has been provided to Andhra Pradesh for mangrove plantations, to enrich existing mangrove areas and for Coastal Shelter belt plantations, in order to minimise environment damage and loss of life and property due to natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the result achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Under the scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs an amount of Rs. 117.05 lakhs was released for implementation of Management Action Plans on Mangrove areas in Coringa, Krishna and East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 184.96 lakhs was released for Coastal Shelterbelt plantation in Srikakulam, Vijayanagram, Krishna, Guntur and Nellore districts during 2000-01 and 2001-02 so as to minimize evironment damage and loss of life and property due to natural calamities. The year-wise physical and financial targets and achievements under the respective programmes are given in the statement enclosed.